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CONFIDENTIAL
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SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Levant States/Saudi Arabia

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Candidacy of Faysal for Throne of Syria; Greater Syria Plan

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. ... February 1947

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

25X1X6

1. On 16 January 1947 the Saudi Arabian Legation released the following statement:

"Certain newspapers of Syria and Lebanon have published information according to which His Highness, Prince Faysal, would be a candidate for the throne of Syria. The Government of Saudi Arabia categorically denies this report, and again reaffirms that His Majesty King Ibn Sa'ud and his government will take care to respect the independence of Syria and Lebanon, an independence which is recognized by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other Arab countries, as well as by Great Britain and the United States.

"His Majesty Ibn Sa'ud supports the present status of Lebanon and Syria, confirmed by the pact of the League of Arab Nations, and he is opposed to any policy which tends to modify this status."

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2. [REDACTED]
3. The Saudi Arabian Chargé d'Affaires in Beirut, Sa'id Bey Rashkhash, is reported to have said that, although King 'Abd al-Aziz (Ibn Sa'ud) has never liked the idea of the accession of one of his sons to the throne of Syria, still it would be in the interests of peace in the Arab world to balance power by having a Saudi Arabian King of Syria.
4. Fuad Pasha Khatib, Saudi Arabian propagandist, is said to have stated that certain Syrian officials (one of whom was President Quwwatli) had been sounded out on the subject of Faysal's candidacy for the throne of Syria. According to Khatib, their reception of this idea was distinctly cool, and he claimed that the matter had been dropped.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 18 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2038

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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